

REMARKS

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 therein. Consequently, dependent claim 2 has been cancelled. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by the newly cited '055 patent to Arai et al. In addition, claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Nitta et al further in view of the patent to DeMatte and the Aerosil/Degussa website. Although the initial statement of the rejection cited the Nitta et al patent, the remainder of the discussion recites "Arai." Thus, it is presumed that it was intended to cite the above '055 Arai et al patent. Reconsideration of these rejections in view of the above claim amendments and the following comments is respectfully requested.

As mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 therein. Inasmuch as claim 2 was indicated as containing

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allowable subject matter, it is submitted that each of the rejections is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claims 1 and 3 through 11 over the cited patents are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1as follows:

1. (Amended) An ink jet recording sheet comprising a support and an ink receiving layer provided on one side of the support, where the support is being a fabric and having a pigment layer on at least the side on which the ink receiving layer is provided or is impregnated with a pigment component, wherein the surface of the ink receiving layer has an arithmetical mean roughness of not more than  $30 \mu\text{m}$  measured in accordance with JIS B0601.

Cancel claim 2